LUXEMBOURG

Saint-Hubert: town signs in Walloon reveal the nicknames of its inhabitants

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Saint-Hubert, the "European Capital of Hunting and Nature", is launching an innovative initiative to preserve its linguistic and cultural heritage. Town signs in Walloon, accompanied by their popular coat of arms, will gradually be installed at the entrance to villages to highlight the local nicknames of the inhabitants in Walloon.

This approach is part of the municipality's participation in the "Ma commune dit Aÿ" label, awarded by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation to promote the Walloon language and intangible heritage.

The first sign was inaugurated this Saturday at the entrance to Saint-Hubert, on the road to Hatrival. " *The popular coat of arms is the nickname, it's the nickname that the inhabitants gave to the villagers next door, or to the town next door. It wasn't usually the nicest, it was more in the sense of mockery* ," explains Laurent Dabe, Walloon translator and member of the Hubertois commission of "Ma commune dit Aÿ".

In the commune, eight localities have animal nicknames for their inhabitants, except for the town. For example, in Saint-Hubert itself, the inhabitants are called "Lès Borkins" (the bourgeois), in Arville "Lès Lumeçons" (the snails), and in Hatrival "Lès Cornailles" (the crows).

Laurent Dabe underlines the originality of the project: " *We are materializing a heritage that is intangible. It is really very clear at the entrance to each locality. And I think that it is unprecedented at the Walloon level, I don't know of any other examples.* "

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